UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

ROBERT P. "SKIP" CUMMINS,

Plaintiff,

vs.

SUNTRUST CAPITAL MARKETS, INC., AMIT HAZAN, and JONATHAN BLOCK,

Defendants.

Case No. 07 CV 4633 (JGK)

JURY DEMAND

## DEFENDANT JONATHAN BLOCK'S SWORN AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

Personally appeared before the undersigned, duly authorized to administer oaths in this State, Mr. Jonathan Block, who being first duly sworn, states as follows:

- 1. I, Jonathan Block, am a resident of the State of New York, am over eighteen (18) years of age, and am competent to give this Affidavit. The facts set forth herein are true and correct and are based upon my personal knowledge.
- 2. At all times relevant to the above-captioned lawsuit, I was an associate equities research analyst at SunTrust Capital Markets, Inc. (hereinafter "SunTrust"). I am currently an equities research analyst at SunTrust. During the relevant time, I assisted in research for analyst reports, or "Notes," on various companies we were covering as part of my job duties.
- 3. I did not make the alleged defamatory statements at issue in the above-captioned matter (hereinafter the "SunTrust Statements"), including those of the June 8, 2006 and June 12, 2006 SunTrust analyst reports on Cyberonics (hereinafter the "June 8 Note" and the "June 12 Note"). Instead, I provided research on the facts underlying Amit Hazan's

opinions in the June 8 and June 12 Notes. I did, however, review and edit the June 8 and June 12 Notes prior to their publication, and my name is on the Notes.

- The research I conducted in preparation for the SunTrust Statements was primarily a review of public documents regarding Cyberonics, including documents Cyberonics filed with the Securities & Exchange Commission ("SEC"). For example, I reviewed all Cyberonics Form 4s filed during the relevant time period. Form 4s are documents filed with the SEC by public companies such as Cyberonics that reflect stock transactions for certain high-level members of management.
- Many of the documents I looked at were online, and thus I did not keep copies of 5. those documents. I am not required by any rule or SunTrust guideline to keep copies of information that I obtain from publicly-available sources in researching companies that we cover.
- In May of 2006, Mr. Hazan and I were asked by my superior at SunTrust, Rick 6. Inskeep, to investigate the companies that Mr. Hazan and I covered for any possible option grant problems or irregularities that might be controversial or attract regulatory attention, since that issue had become very important to investors, regulators, enforcement authorities and the general public in mid-2006.
- Pursuant to Mr. Inskeep's request, Mr. Hazan and I investigated the companies 7. we covered, with the investigative research primarily done by me, with Mr. Hazan's input. The results of our investigation were benign for most companies. However, we uncovered suspicious activity at Cyberonics, Inc., most notably regarding options dated June 15, 2004. Those options came to be the subject matter of the June 8 and June 12 Notes, which are the source for the SunTrust Statements.

- Mr. Hazan's and my investigation revealed that on June 14, 2004, Cyberonics' 8. stock price at the close of trading was \$19.58.
- Mr. Hazan's and my investigation revealed that on June 15, 2004, trading of 9. Cyberonics stock was halted for the entire day during a Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") panel proceeding concerning VNS therapy for depression. The panel gave a positive recommendation for the therapy at approximately 4 p.m. EDT,
- Mr. Hazan's and my investigation revealed that on the evening of June 15, 2004, 10. immediately following the FDA panel decision, 250,000 stock options were issued by Cyberonics.
- Mr. Hazan's and my investigation revealed that, according to Cyberonics public 11. filings, all of the Cyberonics options issued on June 15, 2004 carried the June 14, 2004 closing price of \$19.58.
- Mr. Hazan's and my investigation revealed that, on June 16, 2004, which was the 12. first day of public trading following the positive FDA panel recommendation, Cyberonics' share price jumped 78% to close at \$34.81, yielding an overnight paper profit of approximately \$2.3 million for Robert P. Cummins ("Cummins") and approximately \$150,000 each for his fellow management team members - Richard Rudolph and Alan Totah.
- Mr. Hazan's and my investigation revealed that, according to Cyberonics public 13. filings, in February of 2005, Cummins sold approximately 350,000 options at around \$40-45 per share. Mr. Hazan's and my investigation also revealed that these stock sales began just days after Cyberonics received further favorable news from the FDA, namely that the FDA had approved the VNS device for depression.

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- Mr. Hazan's and my investigation revealed that, according to Cyberonics public 14. filings, Richard Rudolph and Alan Totah, employees of Cyberonics who were given options with a grant date of June 15, 2004 following the FDA panel decision, subsequently sold options at around \$36 per share since that time.
- Mr. Hazan's and my investigation revealed that for the Cyberonics quarter that 15. ended on July 2004, there were 481,000 stock options granted, but only 304,000 of the options were publicly disclosed.
- Prior to publication of the June 8 and June 12 Notes that are the source of the 16. SunTrust Statements, I consulted with David Prince, the then-General Counsel and chief lawyer for SunTrust Capital Markets, Inc. whom I understood to be a securities lawyer and well-versed in securities matters, and told him all of the facts regarding the June 15, 2004 option grants that are laid out in June 8 and June 12 Notes.
- Prince, after hearing and reading all of the facts as they were set out in the June 8 17. and June 12 Notes, told me prior to their publication that he agreed that the option grants were improper, might invite SEC scrutiny, and could be a regulatory violation.
- Prince also told me (1) that he had consulted with outside counsel, a securities law 18. specialist, for a second opinion regarding the June 15, 2004 option grants, (2) that he told that securities law specialist all of the relevant facts regarding the grants, and (3) that the securities law specialist agreed with Prince that the June 15, 2004 option grants were improper. All of this information was conveyed to me prior to publication of any of the SunTrust Statements.
- Susan Venezia is and was a supervisory analyst at SunTrust who was responsible 19. for reviewing analyst Notes prior to their publication to ensure their accuracy and

compliance with internal guidelines. Ms. Venezia reviewed the SunTrust June 8 and June 12 Notes and approved them without qualification.

- In assisting with the SunTrust Statements, I took great care to ensure that all of 20. the facts we were reporting were accurate, that the opinions expressed in the SunTrust Statements were thoughtful and carefully considered, and that everything we were saying was true. I did not know that any of the SunTrust Statements were false; I did not act with reckless disregard as to whether any of the SunTrust Statements were false or not; and I did not have any degree of awareness whatsoever that any of the content of the SunTrust Statements was false, or probably false. To the contrary, I thought and believed there were entirely true. I did not entertain any doubt, and certainly no serious doubt, about the truth of the SunTrust Statements, and I took all steps I felt to be reasonable and appropriate to confirm the truth and accuracy of what we said in the SunTrust Statements before they were published. All of my actions in conferring with Mr. Hazan, consulting in advance with David Prince, obtaining Ms. Venezia's approval of the Notes, consulting with Rick Inskeep, and contacting Pam Westbrook of Cyberonics in advance of the publication of the June 8 Note, were calculated to ensure that the SunTrust Statements were true and accurate.
  - 21. I went to great lengths to ensure the accuracy and appropriateness of the SunTrust Statements by having them reviewed by Prince, Prince's securities law expert, and Susan Venezia, as well as by editing Amit Hazan's work and by having Amit Hazan guide me on ensuring the accuracy of the June 8 and June 12 Note.
  - 22. I had no malice, ill will or spite towards Cummins prior to or concurrent with the publication of the SunTrust Statements, and none of the SunTrust Statements were made

- 23. My career as an equities research analyst depends on people believing that I offer unbiased, reasonable, and thoughtful advice on the companies I cover. Such a belief, and nothing else, motivated me to make and publish the SunTrust Statements.
- 24. I did not, and have never, issued any statements or Notes, including the June 8 and June 12 Notes that were the source of the SunTrust Statements, that were written with the intent to help investors who "short" stocks (i.e., make money on stocks when the stock price of the company goes down). I have also never violated any disclosure rules or guidelines with respect to the matters at issue in the SunTrust Statements.
- 25. I am not and have never been a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).
  FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.

Jonathan Block

Sworn to and subscribed before me This 4 day of September, 2008

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

CARMEN E RODRIGUEZ
NOTARY PUBLIC-STATE OF NEW YORK
NO. 01RO6188018
Qualified in Bronx County
My Commission Expires June 02, 2012